IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A composition for a reduced viscosity hydrophobic thickener system for thickening a polymer-containing aqueous system, said composition comprising:

a) methyl-α-cyclodextrin having a hydrophobic cavity; and

b) a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound and at least one urethane linkage formed from a diisocyanate comprising 1,4-tetramethylene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,10-decamethylene diisocyanate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-diisocyanatohexane, 1,4-cyclohexylene diisocyanate, 1-isocyanato-3-isocyanatomethyl-3,5,5-trimethylcyclohexane, 2,6- and 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, m-phenylene diisocyanate, p-phenylene diisocyanate, xylene diisocyanate, 4-chloro-1,3-phenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-methylene diphenylisocyanate, 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate, 1,5-tetrahydronaphthylene diisocyanate, and a combination comprising at least one of the foregoing diisocyanates;

wherein at least a portion of said methyl-α-cyclodextrin is complexed with said hydrophobically modified thickener in such a way that at least a portion of at least one of said phobes at least partially fills said hydrophobic cavity.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a reduced viscosity thickener system for a polymer-containing aqueous system, the method comprising:

a) providing a cyclodextrin-containing compound having a hydrophobic cavity of a predetermined size;

b) providing a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound, and at least one branched chained or straight chained diisocyanate functional group of a size and configuration such that said diisocyanate functional group is capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound; and

c) mixing said cyclodextrin-containing compound provided in step (a) and said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener provided in step (b), such that at least a portion of said cyclodextrin-containing compound of step (a) is complexed with said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener of step (b) in such a way that at least a portion of at least one of said phobes and/or at least one of said diisocyanate functional groups at least partially fills said cavity.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the closer the size of said cyclodextrin-containing compound hydrophobic cavity is to the size of said at least one terminal phobe of said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener, the higher the viscosity suppression efficiency of said cyclodextrin-containing compound,

wherein said at least one terminal phobe of said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener is not larger in size than said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the viscosity of a polymer-containing aqueous system, comprising mixing the reduced viscosity thickener system prepared according to claim 4 with:

a) a polymer-containing aqueous system, wherein said polymer is water-insoluble; and

b) a surfactant capable of decomplexing said cyclodextrin-containing compound from said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a reduced viscosity thickener system for a polymer-containing aqueous system, the method comprising:

a) providing methyl-α-cyclodextrin having a hydrophobic cavity;

b) providing a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said methyl-α-cyclodextrin, and at least one branched chained or straight chained diisocyanate functional group of a size and configuration such that said diisocyanate functional group is capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound;

c) mixing said methyl-α-cyclodextrin provided in step (a) and said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener provided in step (b), such that at least a portion of said methyl-α-cyclodextrin of step (a) is complexed with said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener of step (b) in such a way that at least a portion of said phobes at least partially fills said cavity.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the viscosity of a polymer-containing aqueous system, comprising mixing the reduced viscosity thickener system prepared according to claim 8 with:

a) a polymer-containing aqueous system, wherein said polymer is water-insoluble; and

b) a surfactant capable of decomplexing said methyl-α-cyclodextrin from said hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener.

10. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising:

a) a hydrophobically modified aminoplast-ether copolymer thickener; and

b) a cyclodextrin compound selected from the group consisting of alpha (α), beta (β), and gamma (γ) cyclodextrin,

wherein a solids content of the copolymer is 15-25 weight %.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10 wherein a content of the cyclodextrin compound is 0.45 to 4.5 weight %.

13. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising

a) a hydrophobically modified aminoplast polyether copolymer thickener and

b) a viscosity suppressing agent selected from the group consisting of alpha (α), beta (β), and gamma (γ) cyclodextrin,

wherein the lower limit of the solids content of the copolymer is 15 wt %.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~29~~13, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 10 carbons.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2913, wherein the lower limit of the hydrophobe types has 14 carbons.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 25 wt %.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt %.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the lower limit of the cyclodextrin content is 0.5 wt %.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 12, wherein the upper limit of the cyclodextrin content is 1.5 wt %.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 20 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 1.0 wt %.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein the solids content of the polymer is 16-20 wt % and the cyclodextrin content is 3.0 wt %.

25-28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) A composition for a reduced viscosity hydrophobic thickener system for thickening a polymer-containing aqueous system, said composition comprising:

a) a cyclodextrin-containing compound having a hydrophobic cavity of a predetermined size; and

b) a hydrophobically modified polyethoxylated urethane thickener comprising at least one terminal phobe of a size capable of complexing with said hydrophobic cavity of said cyclodextrin-containing compound and at least one urethane linkage formed from a diisocyanate comprising 1,4-tetramethylene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,10-decamethylene diisocyanate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,6-diisocyanatohexane, and a combination comprising at least one of the foregoing diisocyanates;

wherein at least a portion of said cyclodextrin-containing compound is complexed with said hydrophobically modified thickener in such a way that at least a portion of at least one of said phobes at least partially fills said hydrophobic cavity.

30. (New) The composition of claim 29, wherein the diisocyanate is 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate.